



## Overview

At the end of the 2005 legislative session, Senate Democrats have a great deal to be proud of. Working with Gov. Christine Gregoire and our colleagues in the House of Representatives, we passed legislation that will improve the quality of life for working families, improve our public schools, keep our air and water clean and ensure greater prosperity for all.

Consider a short list of some the victories we accomplished this session:

- We made solid investments to improve schools, make health care more affordable and to ensure a prosperous future for all.
- We passed the best school-construction budget in history, and fully funded voter-approved initiatives to lower class sizes and retain excellent teachers.
- We set in motion a plan that will assure all children in our state have health care coverage by the year 2010, and maintained 100,000 enrollments in the Basic Health Plan.
- We passed a landmark mental health omnibus bill that will improve the quality of treatment available for people grappling to overcome mental illnesses and substance abuse problems.
- We passed a transportation budget that invests in critical safety projects throughout the state.
- We passed landmark environmental legislation adopting more rigorous auto emission standards and requiring that public buildings meet “green building” standards.
- We sent construction jobs directly to communities all over the state with our public works, transportation and capital budgets.
- We met the challenge of a \$1.7 billion budget shortfall by passing a budget that focuses on children – their education, health and safety – without a general tax increase.
- We passed mental health parity legislation, requiring that diseases of the mind receive the same level of treatment as diseases of the body.
- We continued our drive to make government more accountable to the people and passed landmark legislation to improve our elections system.

We had one of the most productive sessions in recent history and we adjourned on time.